

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00443 081451Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1808
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UNCLAS HALIFAX 0443

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: PC VICTORY IN NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL BYELECTION

1. PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE JACK MAC ISAAC WON RESOUNDING VICTORY IN SEPT 6 NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BYELECTION FOR PICTOU CENTRE. ELECTION WAS CALLED TO FILL SEAT VACATED BY RESIGNATION OF PC MLA FRASER MAC LEAN. MAC ISAAC RECEIVED 5,560 VOTES, LIBERAL MERRITT CRAWFORD 3,248, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY AUSTIN SUTTON WITH 3,081 VOTES. APPROX 77.5 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE ELECTORATE VOTED IN ELECTION.

2. PC AND NDP PARTIES WERE BIG GAINERS. THE LIBERALS SLIPPED BADLY. LAST ELECTION (1974) VOTE TOTALS WERE: PC -5,100, L -4,954, AND NDP -1,591.

3. MAIN ISSUES IN ELECTION WERE JOBS AND THE ECONOMY. UNEMPLOYMENT IS HIGH IN PICTOU CENTRE WHICH INCLUDES THE INDUSTRIALIZED TOWNS OF NEW GLASGOW, TRENTON, AND STELLARTON.

4. LIBERALS SUFFERED SEVERE DROP IN VOTING STRENGTH DESPITE REPEATED VISITS TO CONSTITUENCY BY
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PREMIER REGAN AND MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET. VISITS BY PC PROVINCIAL LEADER JOHN BUCHANAN AND NDP LEADER JEREMY AKERMAN WERE MUCH MORE PRODUCTIVE. AKERMAN PERSONALLY MANAGED SUTTON'S CAMPAIGN WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS.

5. EVEN WITH PC VICTORY IN PICTOU CENTRE, LIBERALS

STILL DOMINATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WITH 31 SEATS
TO THE PC 12 AND NDP 3.

6. COMMENT: SOURCE IN PREMIER S OFFICE TOLD CONOFF
WEEK BEFORE BYELECTION THAT PREMIER HAD DECIDED NOT
TO CALL GENERAL ELECTION THIS FALL - RESULTS OF
BYELECTION HAVE ONLY CONFIRMED HIS DECISION. CABINET
MINISTER TOLD CONOFF DAY BEFORE ELECTION THAT LIBERAL
WORRY WAS NOT IN WINNING ELECTION, WHICH THEY KNEW
PC CANDIDATE WOULD TAKE, BUT RATHER FEAR THAT NDP
MIGHT OUT POLL LIBERAL MAN (WHICH NEARLY HAPPENED).
NOVA SCOTIA LIBERALS ARE BEGINNING TO SWEAT.
GLOOMY ECONOMIC PREDICTIONS AND CONTINUED HIGH
UNEMPLOYMENT ARE CUTTING INTO LIBERAL STRENGTH
IN THE PROVINCE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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